

## **Public Notice**

Public Notice No. 05-1

Date:

December 20, 2005

Nashville District Application No. 990008540
Please address all comments to:
Nashville District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
3701 Bell Road, Nashville, TN 37214

SUBJECT: Proposed Wetland Fill, White County, Tennessee

TO ALL CONCERNED: The application described below has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).** Before a permit can be issued, certification must be provided by the State of Tennessee, Division of Water Pollution Control, pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA, that applicable water quality standards will not be violated. The applicant has applied for the required certification.

APPLICANT: Upper Cumberland Regional Airport

750 Airport Road

Sparta, Tennessee 38583

LOCATION: White County, Tennessee

lat: 36-03-21 lon: 85-31-31

USGS: Burgess Falls, Tennessee Quadrangle

**Background:** The Tennessee Department of Environment issued a permit for the proposal (NRS 03-104) on February 2, 2004. The Upper Cumberland Regional Airport (UCRA) relinquished this permit based on the Corps decision to regulate the above mentioned wetlands in response to new information concerning the wetlands.

DESCRIPTION: The proposed impact consists of the placement of fill in 10.08 acres of jurisdictional wetlands as described in the attached plans. The wetlands (scrub/shrub and emergent) are located on either side of the entrance road to the airport. The area around the wetlands is devoid of trees and has been used for agricultural practices and airport infrastructure. The applicant states the purpose of the project is 1) to alleviate the present demand for immediate growth of the UCRA in response to current need for more facility and infrastructure space, and 2) to provide for the long-term planned growth of the airport.

<u>Mitigation</u>: The applicant has purchased a 30.33-acre site located in Gum Springs on Moore Cove Road and a 10.3-acre site (Breeding Swamp Site) on Breeding Farm Road in White County to mitigate for the wetland impacts. The applicant proposes to enhance a combined total of 26.87 acres, create 3.8 acres, and restore 9.96 acres of wetlands on the two sites. The sites will be protected in perpetuity through deed restrictions and conveyance to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. A sum of \$35,000 will be placed in escrow with the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Foundation for future maintenance of

these sites. Monitoring Reports of the mitigation sites would be submitted annually to this office for a period of five years after the mitigation has been completed.

Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA (40 CFR Part 230). A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

An Environmental Assessment will be prepared by this office prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested Department of the Army Permit.

The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known which would be affected by the proposed work. This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service - Atlanta.

Based on available information, the proposed work will not destroy or endanger any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats, as identified under the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, we have reached a no effect determination

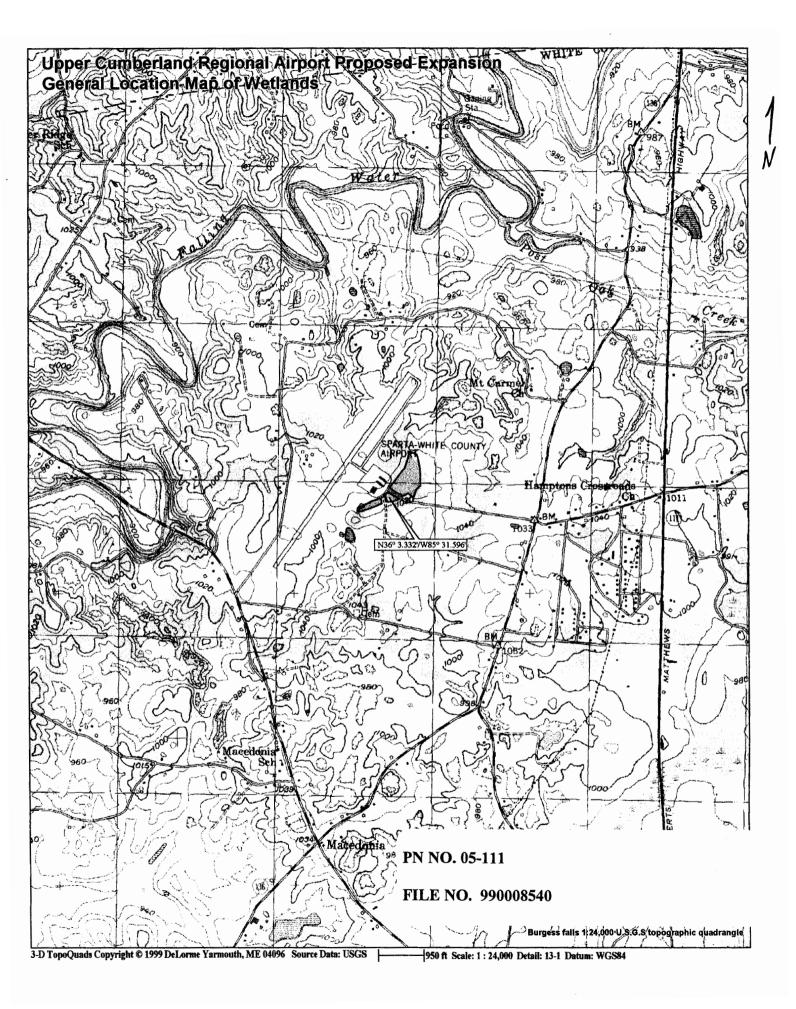
and initiation of formal consultation procedures with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not planned at this time

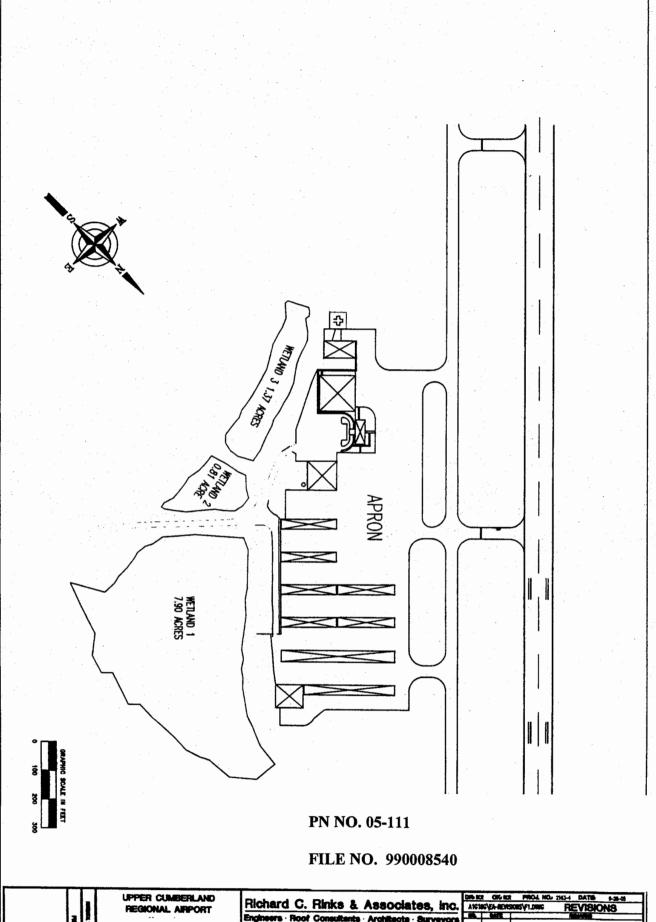
Other Federal, State, and/or local approvals required for the proposed work are as follows:

- An individual Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit form the State of Tennessee.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Written statements received in this office on or before January 20, 2006, will become a part of the record and will be considered in the determination. Any response to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, Attention: Carl R. Olsen, at the above address, telephone (615) 369-7513.

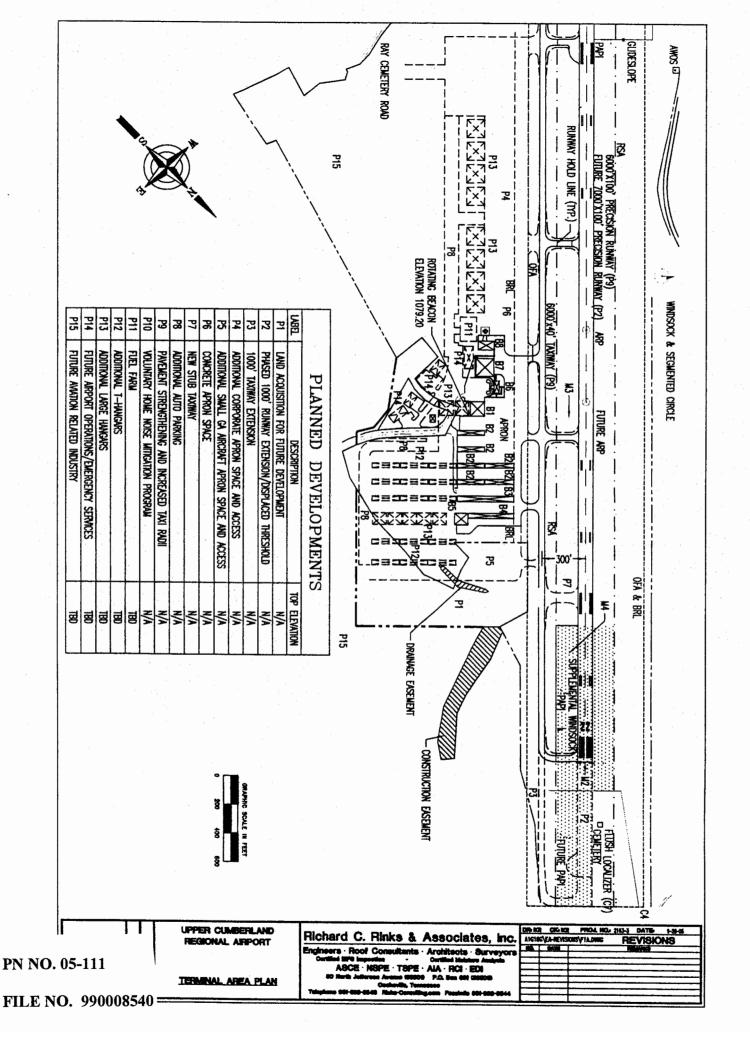




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RICHARD C. Rinks & Associates, inc.

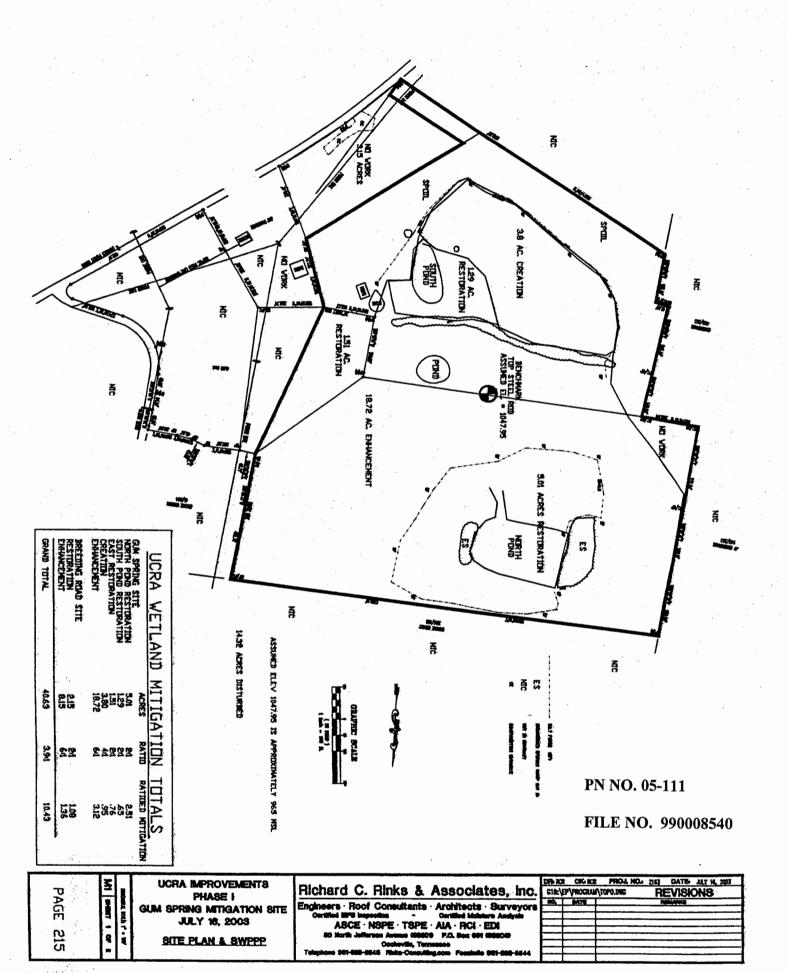
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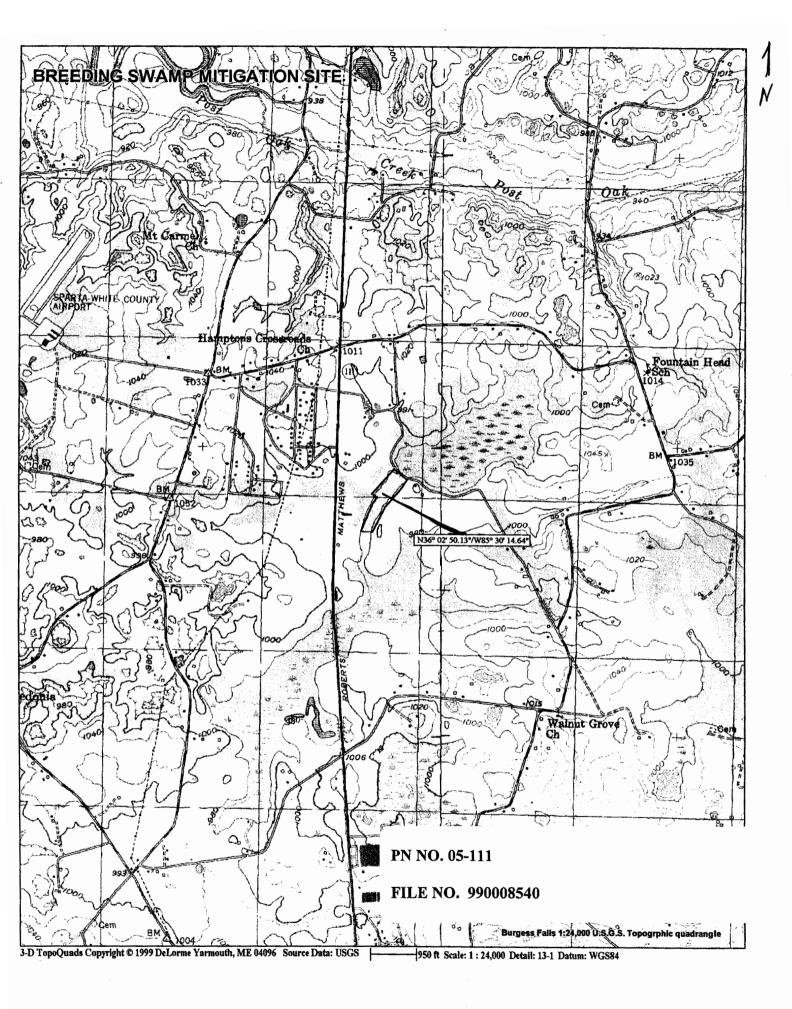


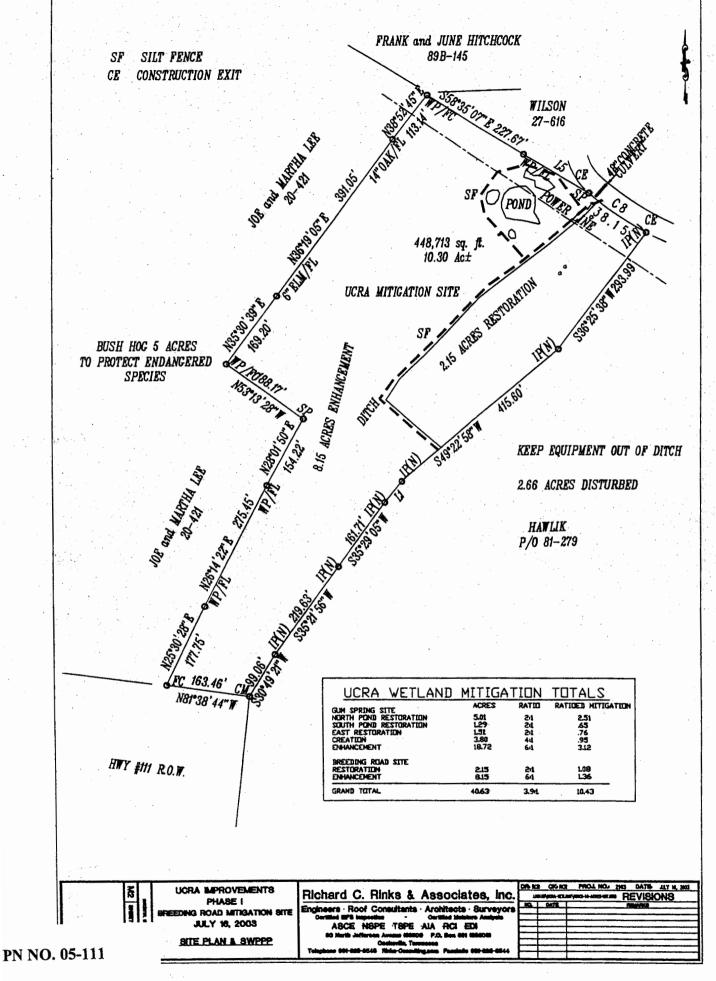
3-D TopoQuads Copyright © 1999 DeLorme Yarmouth, ME 04096 Source Data: USGS | 950 ft Scale: 1: 24,000 Detail: 13-1 Datum: WGS84

FILE NO. 990008540

Doyle 1:24,000 U.S.G.S Topographical Quadrangle







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